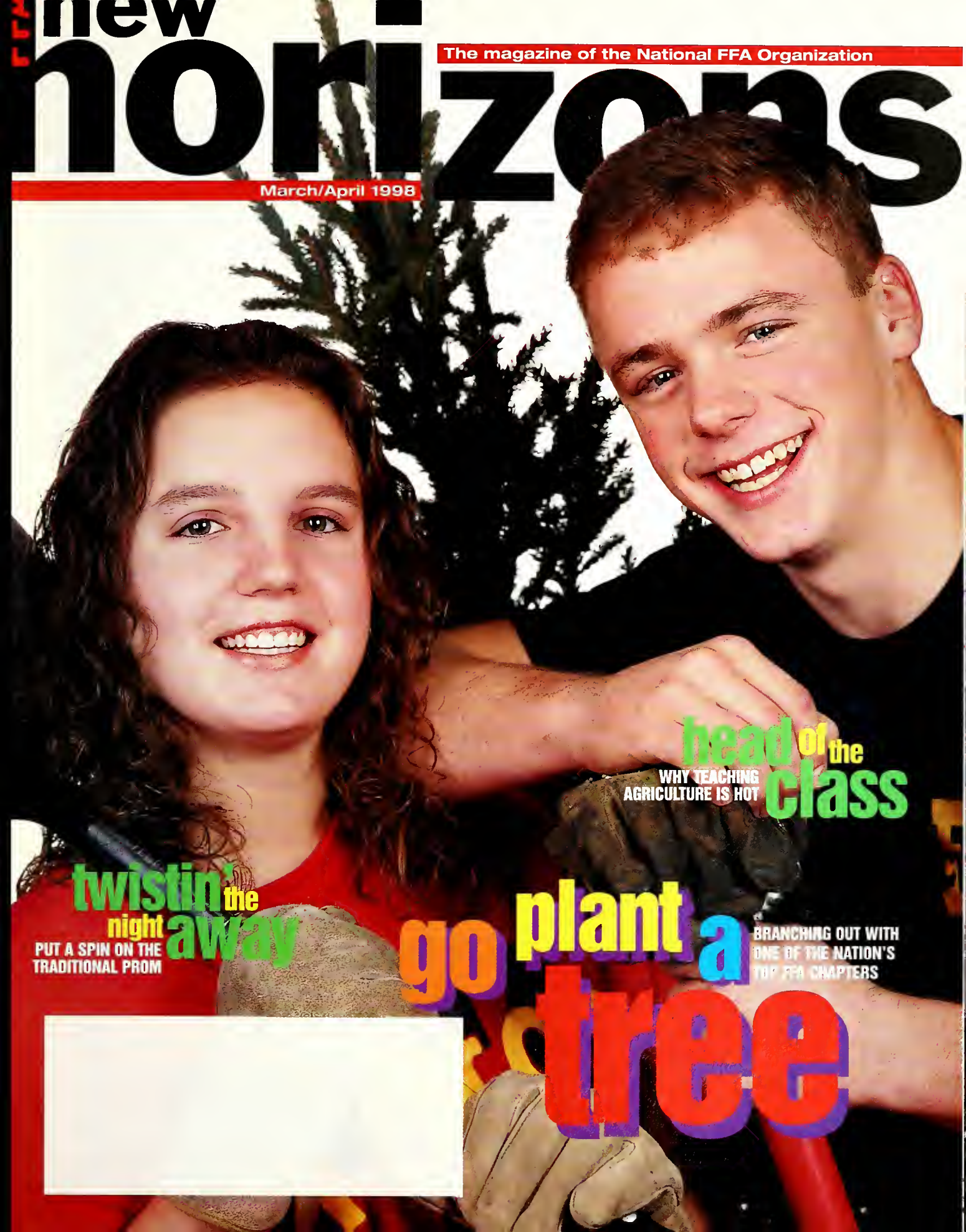
FFA
new horizons
The magazine of the National FFA Organization
March/April 1998



head of the class
WHY TEACHING AGRICULTURE IS HOT

twistin' the night away
PUT A SPIN ON THE TRADITIONAL PROM

go plant a tree
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10 Go plant a tree

The Creston FFA Chapter is one of the three FFA chapters named 1997 Models of Innovation in the National Chapter Award program. This is the second straight year they've won that distinction, and planting trees has a lot to do with their success. It's just one part of the chapter's program of activities, but it speaks volumes about what makes an FFA chapter successful.

features

14 Head of the class

Have you ever considered a career as an agriculture teacher? It may not sound like the ideal job to you right now, but consider this. High school agriculture teachers are among the most in-demand professionals in agriculture. There is a nationwide shortage of agriculture teachers right now, which means agricultural education graduates are landing jobs before they receive their diplomas—and the pay they're getting will surprise you.

18 Twistin' the night away

Prom, with its tradition and fanfare, is one of the most memorable high school events you'll experience. Just because it's a high school tradition, however, doesn't mean that you have to be traditional in your approach to it. Here are seven ways you can put a twist on your prom experience (and maybe save some money while you're at it!)

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FFA Mission Statement
FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Agricultural Education Mission
The mission of agricultural education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resources systems.

Check out National FFA Online www.ffa.org

On the Cover: Meredith Baker and Mike Taylor of Iowa's Creston FFA Chapter. Photography by Ed Lallo.

q&a

National officer

one on one with

Dana Fisher

Who are your role models?
Mom and Dad, for their dependability, honesty and dedication. Mom's been teaching first grade for 27 years now. Dad has always been so reliable in the community. Whenever anything needs to be done, Dad is always there to help.

Why do you want to be an agriculture teacher?
Mom stuck that gene in me. I started college as a history major, and I wanted to teach that. Then, as a state FFA officer, I got a better feel for what happens in agricultural education across the state and across the country. I had seen what FFA had done for me and for others, so I really wanted to keep that tie with FFA.

What's your most embarrassing FFA moment?
Another state officer and I were doing a workshop. I had just finished speaking and he was starting. As I walked to the back of the room, there was a fan just above eye level, and I just cranked it right in the middle of my forehead. It made a big loud noise and almost knocked me over. ☆

VITALS

Hometown: Maurertown, Virginia
Age: 20
Chapter: Central
Advisors: Sherry Heishman and George Bowers
Education: Sophomore at Virginia Tech University
Major: Agricultural [illegible]
SAE: Agribusiness, vegetable production, market steer production, forestry and wildlife management
Favorite singer: Garth Brooks
Last movie seen: I Know What You Did Last Summer
Last book read: Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

timeline

Age

- **13** • joined FFA in seventh grade
- **14** • elected middle school FFA chapter officer
  • competed in dairy judging CDE at state FFA convention
- **15** • attended Washington Leadership Conference
- **17** • lost extemporaneous public speaking contest at state area level
- **18** • placed fourth in state agricultural sales CDE
  • elected state FFA northern area vice president
- **19** • ran for national FFA office and was not elected
- **20** • elected national FFA officer

National eastern region vice president: Dana Fisher

PHOTO BY ED LALLO

March/April 1998 Volume 46 Number 4

FFA new horizons

Official Magazine of the National FFA Organization

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FFA New Horizons (ISSN 1083-806X) is prepared and published bimonthly by Farm Progress Companies Inc. on behalf of the National FFA Organization, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies. Periodical postage rate is paid at Alexandria, VA and additional mail offices.

POSTMASTER: Address all correspondence to: *FFA New Horizons*, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

SUBSCRIPTION: $5.00 per year in U.S. and possessions (FFA members $1.75 paid with dues). Single copy $1.50; five or more 75 cents each. Foreign subscriptions, $8.00. Copyright 1998 by the National FFA Organization.

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

At home on the range

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BUZZ

landrush

Looking for some cheap farmland to get that dream farm going? There's some extremely arid land being sold at $20 a plot. The catch: you've got to have good friends at NASA if you ever want to see the land. You see, it's on the moon. That's right. According to *Sales and Marketing Management* magazine, a man from California, who refers to himself as The Head Cheese of the Lunar Embassy, has already sold 19,600 plots. Let's hope there's good irrigation up there.

surfingFFA

Surfing the Internet the other day, we stumbled across the "FFA" letters on German and Swedish websites. As it turns out, they don't have anything to do with agriculture. The FFA found on the German website stands for a university foreign language program known as "Fachspezifische Fremdsprachenausbildung" (dare you to try to say that 10 times in a row). The other FFA stands for "Flygtekniska försöksanstalten" and refers to Aeronautical Research Institute of Sweden.

hotdates

10 YEARS AGO
Delegates at the national convention voted to Change the name of the Future Farmers of America to the "National FFA Organization"

20 YEARS AGO
President Jimmy Carter addressed the 51st National FFA Convention.

50 YEARS AGO
The first international exchange program was established for FFA members.

70 YEARS AGO
The Future Farmers of America was founded in Kansas City, Missouri.

erich'ssay

You'll never look at the Golden Arches the same way after you check out this issue's "Interview" (page 22) with Thomas Albrecht. He's the guy who runs all of the McDonald's Corporation's purchasing and supply management. To give you an idea how much food McDonald's buys in one year, he said there's only one organization in the country that buys more—and that's the United States Federal Government. He works at the high-tech McDonald's corporate headquarters outside of Chicago, which is a pretty cool place. There's a McDonald's restaurant right there in the office building; there are labs where chefs and scientists develop new sandwiches and secret sauces; and there are futuristic meeting rooms where marketing plans are developed. And that's just the tip of the cheeseburger.

erichgaukel, editor
e-mail: erich@inforel.com

mailbag

I really enjoy FFA, and my teacher Mr. Dills is really a great teacher. He helps me understand things better than any teacher has before. He's really fun, never has tons of homework for us, and he really makes it interesting. I have a smart, fun and exciting class and I wouldn't want anything else. There's not enough I can say about my teacher and class.

JesseMashburn
Danville, Kansas
Anthony FFA Chapter

My name is Courtney Grosso, and I am the chapter reporter of the John Bowne FFA Chapter in New York City. I am writing on behalf of our chapter historian Andrea Kominski, a friend of mine who had the opportunity to attend the 1997 National FFA Convention. Andrea, now a senior, wrote the following poem, "Kansas City."

National blue,
Curduroy stripes,
Cross section of corn,
American Foundation of Agriculture.
The rising sun, shining rays
of a hopeful future.
A plow of labor,
An owl with the poise of wisdom.
Eagle sitting freely,
All marked in corn gold.
States uniting, A sea of blue
Growing, building our strength.
Waves of hope for the future.
When the crest settles
Only good is absorbed
by the sand.
Each grain, a person touched.
The water, a key of life
Seeps and spreads across
Our nation, Our world.

Editor's note: It's great to hear from so many of you. Keep those letters, e-mails and poems coming!

"I'll give ya three bucks for your cap."

You collect the caps. We provide the cash.

Introducing
The Next Generation Program,
a simple way to help your local FFA
chapter raise money to reach its goals.

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In the meantime, hang on to your caps!

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ffa stars

Members making a difference

1-800-COLLECT

calling all stars

FFA members selected as "FFA Stars" will receive $500 from 1-800-COLLECT which can be applied to the Washington Leadership Conference or an FFA International Experience. You can nominate yourself or any FFA member. Write us a note and tell us why you think you or your nominee is an "FFA Star." See page 32 for more details.

CALIFORNIA

Amanda Gonzalez

You don't become a two-time chapter president and agriculture student of the year by watching. You can only reach these achievements by doing. And that's how you describe Amanda. This 18-year-old freshman at the University of California at Davis is a member of the San Marcos FFA Chapter. While still in high school, she participated in livestock judging; competed on the job interview team; and played field hockey and soccer. Amanda raises market lambs and veal at local fairs and recently was the first runner-up in the Miss San Marcos pageant.

LOUISIANA **FLORIDA** **ARKANSAS** **OREGON**

Ernest Griffin

Down in the heart of Louisiana, 18-year-old Ernest is making the most of his high school years. After serving as second vice president of the Tioga FFA Chapter, he's following up this year as vice president. Among the other honors Ernest has received are the FFA chapter star farmer award and the Louisiana Key Club award for his 4-H involvement. Ernest now focuses much of his energy on showing his Black Angus Heifer at livestock shows for FFA and 4-H.

Heather Griffin

Whether she's working extra hours on the homecoming float or staying after school to work on class projects, Heather, 15, is always willing to go the extra mile to make sure things get done right. That's why her friends in the Suwannee FFA Chapter gave her the distinguished "Workhorse Award" at their banquet. It should come as no surprise, then, that Heather is an honor student. Her goal for this year is to raise a steer to show at the county fair.

Mandi Harrison

Many Arkansas FFA members will recognize Mandi for her singing abilities, which she displayed at last year's state FFA convention. That's just the beginning, however, for this 16-year-old member of the DeValls Bluff FFA Chapter. Her list of accomplishments include her current roles as chapter secretary and the 1997 Miss Prairie Rice. She's a competitor too. She helped lead her floriculture team to a second place finish at the district level and a fourteenth place finish at state.

Saren Simmons

There's no FFA chapter where Saren's family lives. Problem? No, she just moved in with her grandparents 40 miles away, so she could join the nearby Days Creek FFA Chapter. This 17-year-old has been raising and showing hogs since seventh grade and has racked up a catalog of chapter, district and state awards. Her dedication doesn't stop there, however. When some local 4-H club members wanted to start working with pigs, Saren was there to lend a hand.

Focus on your Future

SAWYER BROWN

Sawyer Brown knew right from the beginning that they had what it would take to become chart toppers in country music. Talent alone wouldn't be enough — it would take hard work and determination. Now, eight number one hits and millions of records later, they've attained that success. 1-800-COLLECT and Sawyer Brown salute the Future Farmers of America members again in 1998 for their achievements in reaching their goals.

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ffa in action

PENNSYLVANIA

Bringing back the elm

When Dutch Elm Disease swept through the United States in the 1930s, ninety percent of the elm tree population was lost. This was a devastating blow to the many American towns and cities whose streets were lined with the popular trees. The Conrad Weiser FFA Chapter in Robesonia is now working to re-introduce a new disease-resistant elm. As the sole distributor of these special elms in the state, the chapter members are hoping that the community will latch onto the elm so the streets may again be lined with the magnificent trees.

Members of the Conrad Weiser FFA Chapter stand in front of young elm trees they are distributing in their community. The chapter is working to re-introduce the elm in the area.

OKLAHOMA

The governor's zoo

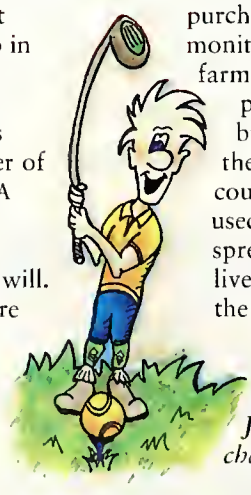
It's not every day that a governor asks you to host a petting zoo on his front lawn, but that's exactly what happened to members of the Edmond FFA Chapter. Last September, Governor Frank Keating invited the crew to participate in the first annual Septemberfest bash on his front lawn. The chapter members went all out, bringing such creatures as llamas, dairy cattle, ducks, horses, mules, baby pigs and pygmy goats. With kids and adults coming through to pet the animals, the chapter members talked about the animals and answered questions. They even got a chance to rub shoulders with the governor.

Members of the Edmond FFA Chapter surround Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating and his wife. The chapter put on a petting zoo at the governor's house as part of a Septemberfest celebration.

NEBRASKA

Masters of the pastures

Ever try to hit a tennis ball into a toilet with a golf club in the middle of a pasture? Didn't think so. Unless you're a member of the Superior FFA Chapter or live nearby, you probably never will. It's called Pasture Golf, and it's an innovative fundraiser that recently pulled in $1,000 for the county hospital's purchase of a cardiac monitoring unit. A local farmer provided the pasture and local businesses provided the prizes. The creative course designers also used bathtubs, manure spreaders, tires and livestock tanks for the golf holes.



submitted by Joni Renz, chapter reporter

Get in on the action!

Is your chapter going that extra mile to help the community, build a stronger chapter, or lend a helping hand to those in need? If so, let us know about it so we can share your experience with the more than 7,000 FFA chapters and 450,000 FFA members around the country. All you have to do is write-up your activity, enclose the best color photo of it you can find, and mail it to: FFA New Horizons, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160

FORD TRUCK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For the past 50 years the FFA and Ford Truck have worked hard to cultivate success in agriculture. Even after all this time, it's still a hard-working partnership. This year there's more reason to celebrate. Ford is commemorating 50 years of F-Series and 50 years of supporting the FFA. At this milestone, we are introducing the Ford Truck Scholarship Fund. Because when looking to the future, education is the best way to ensure success.

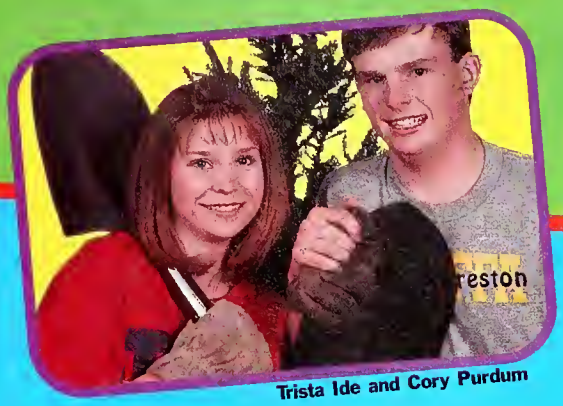
FFA

BUILT Ford TOUGH

F-SERIES 50 YRS BUILT FORD TOUGH

Trees symbolize strength and stability. So what's the perfect way to add these same qualities to your FFA chapter and community? Members of the National Chapter Award-winning Creston FFA Chapter know (that's why they're holding shovels).

go plant a tree



Trista Ide and Cory Purdum

Union County Sheriff John Coulter has five deputies, six jailers and one person to help out in the office. That's not much, considering Union County has a population of over 12,000.

What's that got to do with planting trees?

Everything, or nothing, depending on how you look at it. Sheriff Coulter, like a lot of people in and around Creston, Iowa, drives through the town's streets every day. He probably doesn't take time to notice the thousands of trees planted or given away by the Creston FFA Chapter over the years. You wouldn't either if you were an understaffed sheriff.

Sheriff Coulter does notice, however, when he's got a crisis and members of the Creston FFA Chapter step in and help, like they did one Saturday night last November.

"We had a fatality accident and two of the FFA members drove up on it," the sheriff said. "They came up to me and said, 'You're guys are busy. We'll help you direct traffic.' And they stayed there for two and a half hours just to direct traffic. They didn't have to do that. But that's what I expect of them when I see them on the streets and I need help, or the other officers need help. That's the kind of response we're used to now."

Back to the trees, please

Okay, okay. I admit this has little, if anything, to do with trees. But what I'm really getting at here doesn't have a lot to do with trees anyway. What I'm talking about is making a successful FFA chapter.

lint Brown and Mike Taylor

The Creston FFA Chapter has been named a Model of Innovation chapter in the National Chapter Award program for the last two years in the area of community development. They're successful—yes. But it's not rocket science. Their formula for success is quite simple. It calls for equal parts organization, hard work, incentive and patience.

The chapter officers are responsible for organization. "We have meetings every other day, and they usually last about 15 minutes. They let us all know what we need to be doing," says 17-year-old senior Clint Brown, chapter president.

In these meetings, each chapter officer works from a calendar of events in the form of a notebook, which they put together at the start of the school year. In it are listed the activities for each month and the corresponding names and phone numbers of their activity partners in the community. Since many of the activities carry over from year to year, the list is easy to compile. When it's time to plan a chapter activity such as the Bicycle Rodeo, a bicycle safety program for grade school kids, the officers look at the calendar and make the necessary phone calls to get the ball rolling.

Roll call

The officers call monthly before-school meetings for the entire chapter. This is where members are linked with the activities that the officers have been planning. When everyone knows his or her part, the meeting adjourns.

"We always have volunteers," 18-year-old senior Cody Purdum says. "We never have to draft people to go out and do work. They always want to go out and volunteer."

Incentive comes into play here because it's a great motivator. It "comes from the good feeling of doing something that helps the community or helps younger students," says 17-year-old senior Trista Ide, chapter secretary. "But some of them do it so they can get out of the school building for a while, but that's okay too because it takes everybody to get it done."

Kurtis Sharp, a 17-year-old senior who's also on the football team, sees recognition as another incentive. "I think it's fun to be in FFA because anymore FFA gets noticed just about as much as sports do. And we get in the paper a lot when we do activities, just like when you win a big game in football."

Planting trees in the community is one of the most important activities for members of the Creston FFA Chapter.

What about the trees?

While Sheriff Coulter might not notice the trees planted by the Creston FFA members, he knows that it's activities like these that instill in them confidence and pride in the community.

Trista looks at it this way. "Every time you drive down the street in Creston, you say, 'I planted that tree.' Then you realize how nice it looks. I think it encourages members to stay active in the community for the rest of their lives because they see that they did make a difference and they did have some impact in the community."

Trees take a long time to grow, and even though it takes some time to see noticeable growth, these FFA members know the trees will eventually branch out.

The same thing goes for growing a chapter. When Galen Zumbach took over as the advisor of the Creston FFA Chapter 21 years ago, he started building the chapter's program of activities piece by piece. Year by year the success of the program has grown, and like a tree, the growth has been slow but steady.

Taking it slow

"The key is not to do everything at once," Zumbach says, adding that it's also important to realize that big activities aren't necessarily the best.

Trista adds another piece of advice. "Start small. You don't have to jump in and do as many activities as we do to make an impact and to improve your chapter, but if you start adding one or two activities every couple of months or even a couple activities a year, pretty soon you get more people interested, more people involved and you become a big chapter, and a very active chapter."

Home grown success

There are lots of ways to learn more about building a successful FFA chapter. Here are a few to get you started.

1. Ask your advisor about Local Program Success (LPS), a national initiative to help you build a stronger chapter. Using tools and strategies developed by teachers and other agricultural education professionals, LPS can help your chapter expand and improve its activities.

2. Grab a copy of the your Official FFA Manual (if you don't have one, get one from your advisor). Turn to page 13. Here you'll find the 10 essentials of a successful chapter. Your chapter is unique, so apply these 10 items to your own chapter in creative ways.

3. Jump on National FFA Online at www.ffa.org. You'll find that chapters from all over the country now have their own websites. Here you can get ideas by checking out other chapters' program of activities.

4. If you'd like to learn more about any of the three chapters recognized as 1997 Models of Innovation in the National Chapter Award program, here's where you can write:

Bradley FFA Chapter
1000 South Lee Highway
Cleveland, TN 37311

Creston FFA Chapter
601 West Townline
Creston, IA 50801

Indian Valley FFA Chapter
253 South Walnut St.
P.O. Box 130
Gnadenhutten, OH 44629

The National Chapter Awards program is sponsored by Cargill as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc. and the National FFA Foundation General Fund.

Get in on the ground floor

The 1997-98 National FFA Officers recently checked out the National FFA Construction site. "It was an exciting moment as we drove down the long narrow driveway to the center," says Cody Nash, western region vice president. "We were like kids at Christmas with new toys. We turned the corner and saw the dreams of FFA visionaries come alive. Just to see it put into bricks and stone was incredible."

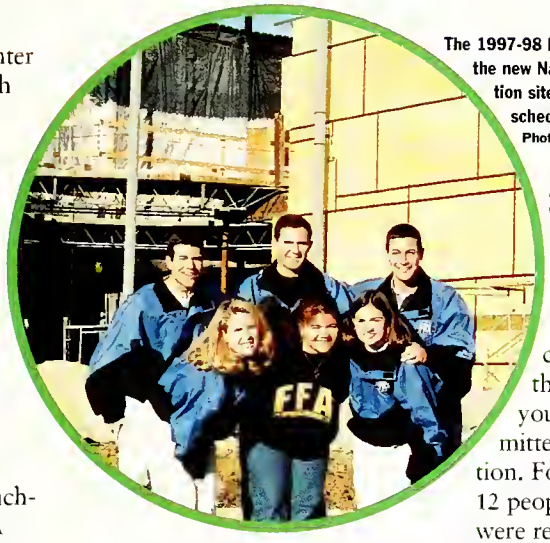
Speaking of bricks, did you know that you and your chapter still have time to get involved before the center is dedicated on July 20? Here are three ways to be a part of this historic FFA project.

1. Buy a brick

Over 1,100 FFA chapters and individuals have already pledged their support of the new center by investing $150. With this contribution, you can get your chapter's name engraved on a brick that will be used in the front sidewalk at the center. For details, ask your advisor or call Marie Peterson at the National FFA Foundation at 608-829-3105.

2. Submit a design

The deadline is approaching for the center's FFA landscaping competition. Here's what you need to know: The center's landscaping plan includes six plots designated specifically for the competition. There will be two competitive divisions-one for high school FFA members and one for former FFA members enrolled in postsecondary level and Postsecondary Agricultural Education (PAS) members. More info, including rules and entry form, can be found at www.ffa.org. Or ask your advisor. Applications must be postmarked by April 15.



The 1997-98 National Officers drop by the new National FFA Center construction site for a tour. The center is scheduled to open May 15.
Photo by: Doug Sherwood

3. Vote

The National FFA Center Building Committee will name the center's six conference rooms this spring. We want you to advise the committee on the name selection. Following is a list of 12 people who we feel were real pioneers in agriculture. Vote for one person from each of the six pairings below and mail us your results. The top vote getters from each pair will be submitted to the board as they prepare to make their decision. Submissions must be postmarked by the end of March.

vote here (check one from each pair)

mail completed ballot to: "Ag Pioneers" FFA New Horizons P.O. Box 15160 Alexandria, VA 22106

- ☐ **Thomas Jefferson**
  Third U.S. president and nation's first great pioneer in the development of scientific farming practices.
- ☐ **George Washington**
  First U.S. president and farmer who imported livestock and invented farm equipment.

- ☐ **Louise Stanley**
  In the 1920s became the first Chief of Bureau of Home Economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- ☐ **Barbara McClintock**
  Won the 1983 Nobel Prize for her research on corn genetics.

- ☐ **Hohokam (Native American tribe)**
  Ancient Native American tribe of highly skilled farmers proficient in cross-pollination, irrigation and storage of crops.
- ☐ **Squanto**
  Native American who taught pilgrims in the 1700s how to plant corn in rows and fertilize with fish.

- ☐ **George Washington Carver**
  Developed over 300 uses for the peanut and aided Southern farmers with practical agricultural research and advice.
- ☐ **George Washington Bush**
  This African American overcame racial obstacles to become one of the first to settle and farm in the Pacific Northwest.

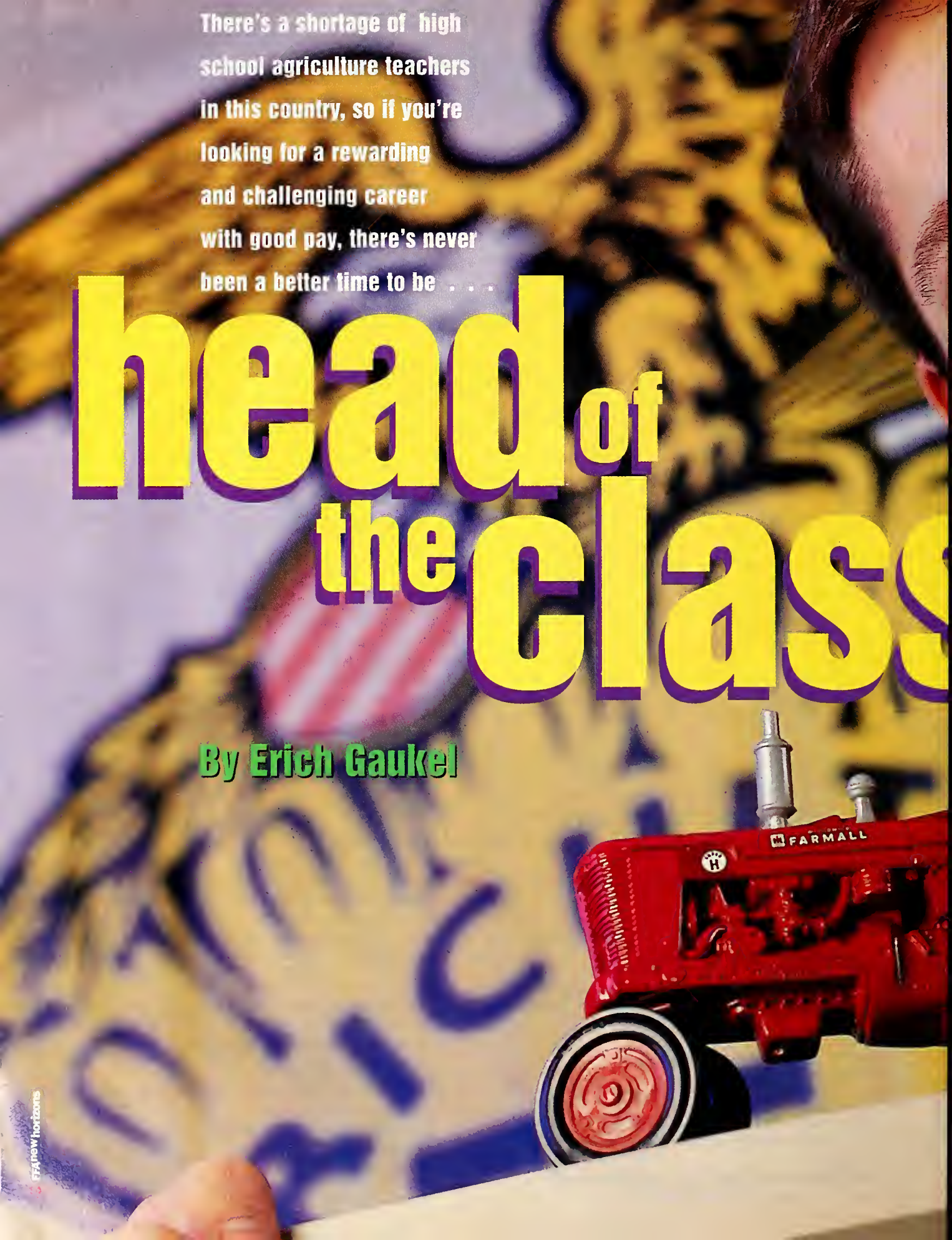
- ☐ **Henry A. Wallace**
  Journalist and politician who served as U.S. vice president and secretary of agriculture and also helped develop hybrid corn.
- ☐ **Dudley May Hughes and Hoke Smith**
  Sponsors of the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, which led to the establishment of the FFA.

- ☐ **Cesar Chavez**
  Labor organizer who founded the National Farm Workers Association.
- ☐ **José Vasconcelos**
  Mexican minister of education who, in the 1920s, pioneered agricultural education.

There's a shortage of high school agriculture teachers in this country, so if you're looking for a rewarding and challenging career with good pay, there's never been a better time to be . . .

head of the class

By Erich Gaukel



If you take a look at the "career in agriculture" category in this issue's "What's Hot/What's Not," it's easy to see why there's a national shortage of high school agriculture teachers. Students picked this as the career in agriculture that is "not" hot.

Jason Brockshus felt the same way when he was in high school. When he strolled off the graduation stage with his high school diploma he already had a college degree in dairy science on his mind.

The thought of returning to a high school setting—except to maybe attend his class reunion—never crossed his mind.

But something strange happened.

"My ag advisor had always wanted me to go into ag ed, and I always said I didn't want to do that. But along the way, I became a state officer and got to work with a lot of young people. Being up in front of the classroom was interesting, and I enjoyed working in that type of area."

The unthinkable

Jason then did the unthinkable—he decided to major in agricultural education so he could become a high school agriculture teacher.

A 1997 college graduate, Jason is now finishing up his first year as an agriculture teacher at Sibley-Ocheyedon, his old high school. He's one of two agriculture teachers in this thriving program. And get this—he loves it.

"I took my job in April before I was done student teaching," Jason says. "I knew I had a job to go to next year, which kind of makes you feel better. You're walking across the stage at [college] graduation and you know you have a job. You're not like a lot of business graduates or graduates entering a field where there's a surplus of people. There's a definite need for you out there, and, as a young person, that's nice to know."

Need translates into opportunity for agricultural education graduates. Tommy Gladden is the leader of agricultural education in South Carolina. He says each graduate of the Clemson University ag ed program walks out the door with three, maybe even five, job offers. And once a graduate picks the job he wants, he knows he'll have a starting salary of $30,000. Not bad.

Write your own ticket

Gladden says the popularity of FFA is so high right now that he could start another 20 chapters in the state if he had the teachers to do it. Saundra Castillo, the assistant supervisor of agricultural education in New Mexico, says her state has had to look outside its borders to fill its teaching vacancies. A lot of states are having to do this, but it's hard to attract—let alone find—students from out of state, especially when most other states face their own shortages.

According to William Camp at Virginia Tech University, over 100 agricultural teaching positions went unfilled nationally in 1994. "Historically," he says, "about half the people who qualify actually look for teaching jobs." This is because agricultural education students are not limited to teaching when they graduate. Many graduates are opting to enter such areas as biotechnology, sales, marketing and management.

In some cases an industry job might pay better than a teaching job, but it's more than money that brings in teachers—it's about loving what you do.

"One nice thing about ag ed is we have a lot more things to do than just stand in front of the class," Jason says. "We have things out in the shop, we have community activities, and we have student leadership and career development events. That's what makes ag ed intriguing for me. I still don't see myself as a regular teacher and I don't think I'd fit in very well being a math or English teacher. Ag ed is interesting and fun, and that's what I like about it." ★

Learn more about teaching

Here are three ways you can find open your eyes to a promising career as an agriculture teacher

You won't find a better resource than your own FFA advisor. Ask your advisor how you go about becoming an agriculture teacher and ask what he or she likes or dislikes about the career.

Call or write to, or visit the website of, the colleges or universities in your state that offer agricultural education programs. Most states have only one or two schools with programs in this area, so they're not hard to find. Your advisor may have a list of schools with contact information.

To get an idea of what types of teaching positions are available today, visit National FFA Online at www.ffa.org for agriculture teacher job postings. While you're there, check out the Agricultural Career Center. Here you'll find all kinds of agricultural job listings; tips on writing effective resumes, cover letters and thank you notes; and information on internships.

Stacking up the CD clubs

Know what you'll be paying before you join

If you are, or ever were, a member of one of the CD clubs—BMG, CDHQ or Columbia House—you know it takes months before you receive all your CDs and have fulfilled your club obligation. By the time you're ready to cancel, you've been so inundated by paperwork, it's hard to tell how much you've actually spent for that stack of CDs.

So, we decided to do a little investigating to find out how much these clubs really cost. To be fair, we joined all three clubs by filling out offers found in magazines we bought at the same newsstand on the same day in 1997.

Once we joined, we made every effort to spend the absolute minimum amount of money to fulfill our club obligations. This means that when we had to buy CDs at full club prices, we picked CDs at the bottom end of the full price range in each club.

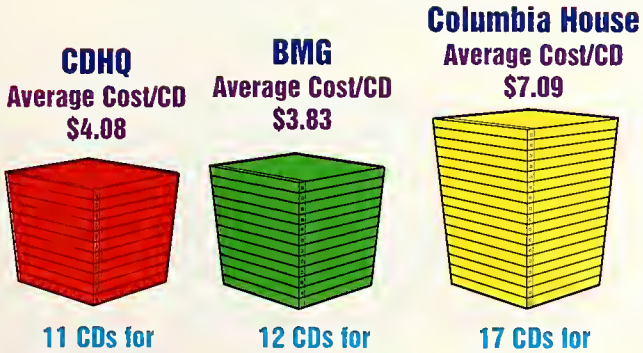
How they stack up

The most expensive of the trio is clearly Columbia House. Their "Eleven CDs for 1 cent" offer should reflect what you actually get, which is 17 CDs for 12,049 cents, or $120.49. Here's how it works. You pay the one cent, but if you read the offer's fine print carefully (which you should always do before joining), there's an additional $1.49 "enrollment charge." Plus you pay shipping and handling charges for each of the 11 CDs. This will cost you around $2.39 per CD. The real wallet-eater is your obligation to buy six more CDs at full club prices ($12.98 to $17.98) plus shipping and handling. When all is said and done, you're paying $7.09 per CD, which is still cheap compared to what you'd pay in the store, but you can do better.

CDHQ, which is owned by the same company as Columbia House, is cheaper and less complicated. You buy one CD at full club prices ($12.98 to $16.98) plus shipping, handling and sales tax. You then receive nine additional CDs for the cost of shipping, handling and sales tax. Our average cost per CD came out at $4.08, which is $3.01 less per CD than Columbia House. A good deal, but can it get better?

You bet. BMG sells itself with the "12 CDs for the price of 1" offer. Again, you're still responsible for shipping, handling and sales tax, but BMG has managed to hold off the competition with an average CD cost of $3.83. We spent a total of $45.95 to fulfill our BMG membership, which is about a dollar more than we spent with CDHQ, but we got one more CD.

How they stack up



A few things to remember when joining

- **Don't join if you can't pay.**
- **Read all fine print.**
- **Return all club correspondence quickly, and keep accurate records of all orders and payments you make.**
- **Don't join more than one club at a time—it's way too confusing.**
- **Check club Internet sites for better selection (website addresses are included in membership materials).**
- **Cancel membership immediately after you fulfill your obligation—it's cheaper (and acceptable) to rejoin the club if you still want to be a member.**

You'll never find a customer service phone number anywhere in the offers or mailings you receive from the clubs. We called information to get the numbers because we found it necessary to call each club at least once with billing questions or problems, all of which, by the way, were cleared up with little or no hassles. Here are the numbers:

BMG
(317) 542-6000 extension #1

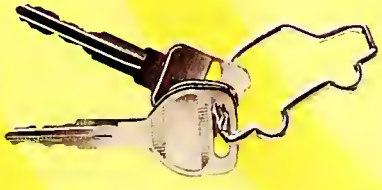
CDHQ
(812) 242-7096 or
(800) 242-7096

Columbia House
(800) 457-0500 or
(812) 242-7110

Prom, with its tradition and fanfare, is one of the most memorable high school events you'll experience. Just because it's a high school tradition, however, doesn't mean that you have to be traditional in your approach to it. Here are seven ways you can put a twist on your prom experience (and maybe save some money while you're at it!)

twistin' the night away

By Erich Gaukel



1. the ride We're not saying limousines aren't a fun way to get to prom—they're just predictable. Wouldn't it be more fun if you rode to prom on that old John Deere? Or, say, on a pair of bicycles? Or, better yet, on horseback? Heck, if you're a Star Trek fanatic, you could-aw, forget it. Whatever mode of transport you use, make sure it's safe and legal—and within the laws of physics.

2. the food Year in and year out prom couples invariably wind up at the same local restaurants. While they're generally good restaurants, they're also expensive. For a twist, send your parents out for dinner, and invite your date over for a special dining experience—a cookout prepared by you! Or, if the weather cooperates, throw some food in a picnic basket and take your date to your favorite park or nature spot.

continued on page 20

what's HOT what's NOT

Starting this issue we're recognizing the FFA Chapter with the most members filling out and mailing in their "What's Hot/What's Not" surveys. This issue's award goes to the Fulton County FFA Chapter in Hickman, Kentucky. Congratulations to the Fulton County FFA members who let us know what's hot and what's not. You'll find the new survey on page 23.

subject in school

Agriculture

English

person in history

George Washington

Adolf Hitler

school lunch item

Pizza

Hamburger

school policy

No smoking

No gum

after school activity

Basketball

Detention

career in agriculture

Farmer

Agriculture teacher

career outside agriculture

Doctor

Fast food worker

novel

To Kill a Mockingbird

Little Women

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Scotland, Switzerland, Wales

Go beyond your borders

National FFA takes you "Beyond Your Borders" with a terrific opportunity to share cultures with a student from abroad and have them join your FFA chapter. The YLHS program is a 10 month hosting experience that brings the world to your door.

Call toll-free

1-888-332-7853

for a free host information packet.

http://www.ffa.org
then click on International Programs.

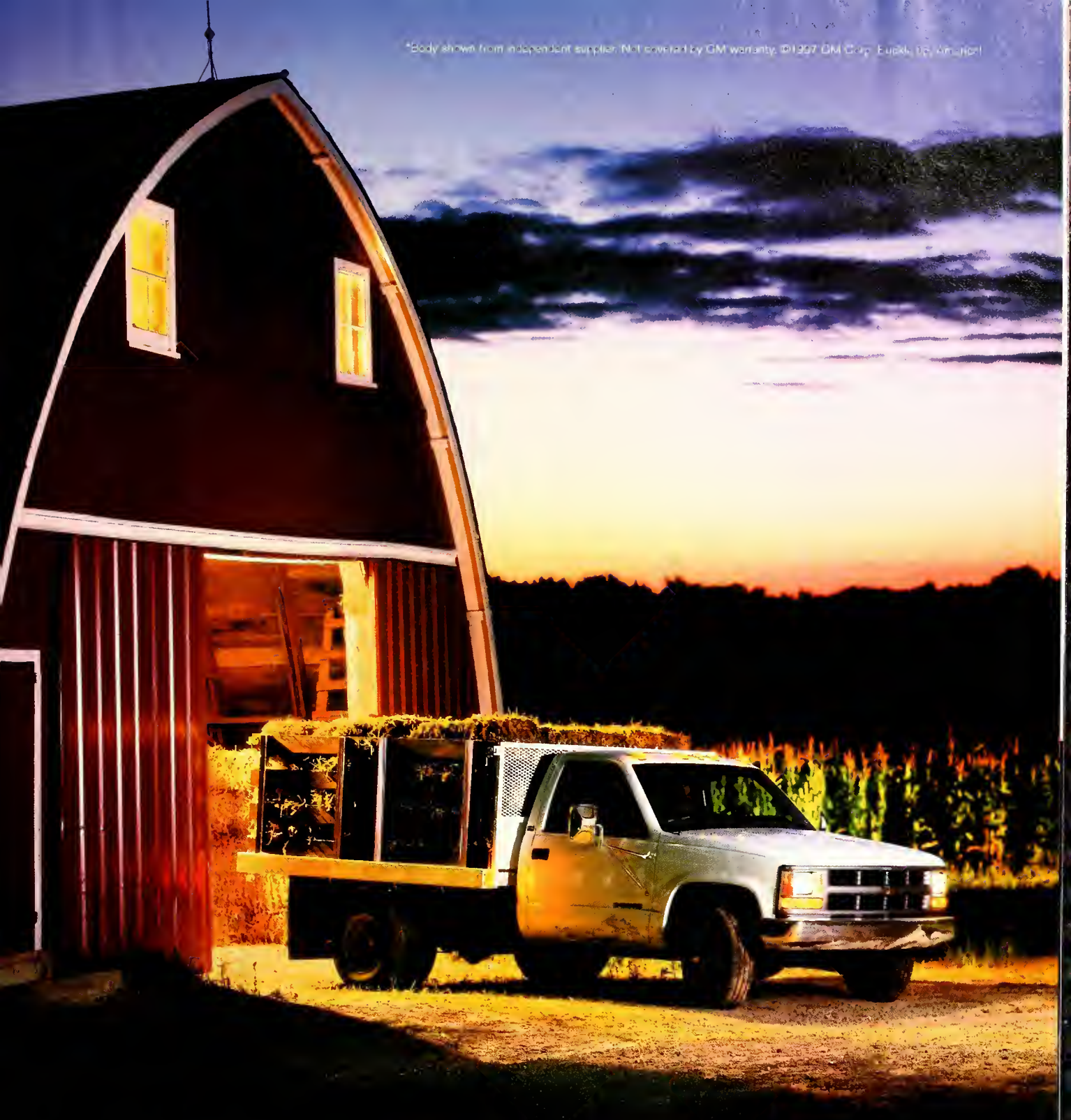
3. the clothes Renting penguin suits and buying top-dollar dresses are part of the prom tradition, but you could spend hundreds of dollars before you're through. Guys, you'll feel like a million bucks, but you'll look just like everybody else. Gals, you'll look like million bucks, but you'll likely never wear that dress again. If you want a creative and inexpensive alternative, we suggest that you and your date raid the closest vintage clothing or thrift store, or maybe even your grandparents' attics. You might find some swingin' clothes from the '50s and '60s that you'll be surprised to find are now back in style. You'll save a bundle of cash and be the talk of the prom.

4. the dance We still can't figure out when, where, why and how people forgot how to dance, though we suspect couch-inducing channels like MTV and CMT had something to do with it. If you don't know how to dance (no, line dancing doesn't count here), find someone who does, and learn how. We're talking West Coast Swing, the Jitterbug, a Waltz and the Fox Trot. If you and your date practice ahead of time, you'll be the hottest couple on the dance floor.

5. the post prom party Your high school is the perfect place for a post-prom party. With a little organization ahead of time by you and your classmates, you could show a midnight movie in the auditorium, throw a beach party in the pool, play co-ed basketball in the gym, run an all night diner in the cafeteria, or just keep on dancing . . .

6. the photographs Remember, prom pictures never disappear. They carry far more weight than the homecoming and winter dance pictures, which will eventually be filed away in the basement. So, you want these pictures to tell the story. Instead of wasting 45 valuable minutes of dancing time (and a lot of money) by waiting in line for the "official" prom photographer, get out on the dance floor and show your stuff. While you're dancing, get the roaming "candid" photographer to shoot several shots of you and your date in action. Then, when the proofs are posted at school in the following weeks, you can pick the ones you like. For snapshots of your friends, bring along a disposable camera.

7. play it smart Prom is one of the highlights of your high school experience. Have fun, but realize you've got some personal choices to make when it comes to drinking, drugs and sex. Use your best judgment, and make this is a prom to remember, instead of a prom to forget.



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Chevy Trucks

LIKE A ROCK

The big cheese

Meet a man whose yearly grocery list includes 700 million pounds of beef, 3.5 billion pounds of raw potatoes—and, yes, 180 million pounds of cheese

Thomas Albrecht is the senior vice president of supply chain management for the McDonald's Corporation, based in Oak Brook, Illinois. He's got one of the coolest jobs around—he makes sure McDonald's supply system operates without a hitch, which means he works with outside suppliers, establishes quality standards and monitors product consistency.

Thomas Albrecht, senior vice president of supply chain management for the McDonald's Corporation.

What do you like best about your job?

It's helping make sure the McDonald's system rolls on in 109 countries and 23,000 restaurants every day of the year. It's a huge challenge, but we have a great supply network. Our french fries and hamburgers have to be the same in Tokyo as in Topeka, and when we opened restaurants in new places such as India, South Africa and Tahiti, we were there, bringing the consistency and quality the Golden Arches have come to represent.

Describe your typical workday.

A typical day now, if I'm not on the road, is four to eight meetings, either with suppliers or our own staff, or other people from the organization. At this level there's a lot of alignment type of activities that you have to focus on. You have to know what the marketing department is doing so that you can be ready for that. You have to know what is changing in store operations so you can help facilitate those changes. You have to make sure the products are right. And you have to know what the menu development department is doing to change the product, and be ready for that. There's just a lot of coordination.

How long does it take a product to go from a concept to an item on the menu?

It varies by product. With the "Deluxe" line we probably set a new record from concept to product in the restaurants, and that was probably about a four month time frame. But that's short—that's very, very, very short. If it's a completely new concept, you're probably looking at more like a year because there's a lot of concept work to do. You have to decide if the concept is viable for the consumer and if it fits into the operations of the restaurant. Then you develop a market test. And then based on the market test, you start to expand it into the mainline system. So it's not so much developing the product itself—it's really making sure that the customer wants it.

What's the most unusual purchase you ever made?

Eight years ago we ran a promotion called "Chicken Shanghai," where we promoted nuggets in a box with chopsticks and some oriental sauces in it. I had to buy 25 million fortune cookies.

McDonald's grocery list (for U.S. operations)

Product amount purchased per year

BEEF
700 million lbs.

CHICKEN
320 million lbs.

PORK
125 million lbs.

FISH
52 million lbs.

CHEESE
180 million lbs.

VEGETABLE OIL
360 million lbs.

PICKLES
53 million lbs.

Albrecht says McDonald's also buys 4.8 billion buns and 800 million biscuits a year!

what's HOT

Class/subject in school _____

Person in history _____

School lunch food item _____

Road trip destination _____

School policy _____

After school activity _____

Career in agriculture _____

Career outside agriculture _____

Novel _____

Weekend adventure _____

Sport to watch _____

Sport to play _____

College basketball team _____

Beverage _____

Type of music _____

what's NOT

Class/subject in school _____

Person in history _____

School lunch food item _____

Road trip destination _____

School policy _____

After school activity _____

Career in agriculture _____

Career outside agriculture _____

Novel _____

Weekend adventure _____

Sport to watch _____

Sport to play _____

College basketball team _____

Beverage _____

Type of music _____

send your picks to:

FFA New Horizons What's Hot
5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway
P.O. Box 15160
Alexandria, VA 22309-0160

The FFA Chapter that sends in the most "What's Hot/What's Not" surveys will be recognized in our next issue

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Chapter _____

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Got a story idea?

Some of the best stories in *FFA New Horizons* come from leads provided by FFA members.

If there's something going on out there you think would make a great story for *FFA New Horizons*, or if you have questions or comments on a story you've already seen in the magazine, drop us a note.

Just write your story leads or comments in the space below and mail to:

FFA New Horizons
5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway
P.O. Box 15160
Alexandria, VA 22309-0160
***Or* e-mail: erich@inforel.com**

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Age: _____

Chapter: _____

FFA Advisor: _____

Brief description of story lead or comments:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

WASHINGTON FFA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 1998

"WLC was the best experience of my life!"

—KEITH MILLER, FFA MEMBER, MOUNT CITY, MISS.

"WLC is full of inspiration & motivation for everyone!"

—MOLLY BROWN, FFA MEMBER, BRIGGSDALE, COLO.

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

WLC—LEADING THE WAY

Are you ready to embark on an experience that can impact your life? Then the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) is for you!

This is no ordinary leadership experience. Sure, you will gain valuable skills in personal development, motivation, leadership, teamwork, citizenship and goal-setting—but there's even more! You will spend a week putting these skills into practice by making new friends from across the United States, touring our nation's capital and visiting with members of Congress. This action-packed week will help you gain self-confidence and leadership skills to take back to your FFA chapter and share with other members!

Enthusiastic and expetienced WLC staff members will help you lead the way to premier leadership. These individuals, all former FFA members, will share their experiences and help you unlock your potential and personal growth. With their guidance, you'll learn to take risks you never thought possible!

You will participate in high intensity, interactive sessions and experience leadership in a fun setting. Plus, you will learn valuable tips to help you motivate other members in your chaprer. With your improved leadership skills, you will be able to help your chapter reach a new level of excellence.

Now are you ready for an exciting experience? Invest in what it takes to lead the way for yourself and your chapter to be successful! Make a positive difference in your life. Make plans today to attend WLC!

MAKING AN IMPACT

The Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) experience isn't just for students—it's an adventure for advisors, too! The WLC advisor program is motivating, exciting and a great time to "recharge" for the school year. It's also an incredible opportunity to interact and share valuable ideas with other FFA advisors from across the United States.

You will attend exciting sessions on topics from leadership training for you and your members, to the latest in technology for the classroom, to legislative issues and hot topics in agriculture. Plus, you will receive the latest news from the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association (NVATA) and the FFA. These sessions will spark new ideas to help you reach your goals as an educator and make your job more rewarding. In addition, you will receive free resources including videos, training materials and classroom materials.

Of course, there is plenty of time to relax. You will explore the sites of Washington, D.C., meet our nation's lawmakers and enjoy the time to get to know other advisors in an informal setting.

In many cases, the WLC advisor program is accepted as credit for inservice training and re-certification. Check with your local and state administration. Plus, WLC is a NASSP-Approved Activity*.

Sign up now for the WLC advisor program. You and your chapter are worth the investment!

**NASSP-Approved Activity: The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisor List of Contests and Activities for 1997-98.*

The Washington Leadership Conference fulfills 21 of the employability skills identified in the SCANS report developed by the United States Department of Labor.

Student Program

Tuesday—Leading the Way to Opportunity

1-5 p.m.	Conference Registration
5 p.m.	Photo Session
6 p.m.	Dinner
7 p.m.	"The Week's Opportunities" —Conference Welcome
8:30 p.m.	Reflections
9:30 p.m.	Congressional Visit Information Meeting Late Registration
11 p.m.	Lights Out

Wednesday—Leading the Way in Pride

7:45 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	"Pride in Citizenship and Public Image"
10 a.m.	Visit to Arlington National Cemetery
Noon	Lunch at Union Station
1:45-4 p.m.	Congressional Visits Guided Sightseeing Tour—U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Botanical Gardens
4:00 p.m.	Photo at the Supreme Court Steps
6 p.m.	Dinner
8 p.m.	Night Tour of Washington, D.C.—Jefferson, Korean, FDR, Lincoln and Iwo Jima Memorials; Vietnam Wall; White House
11 p.m.	Lights Out

Thursday—Leading the Way in Teamwork

7:45 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	"Personal Development...The Real You!"
10:15 a.m.	"Personal Development...Appreciating the Team"
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:45 p.m.	"Qualities of a Team"
3:15 p.m.	Banquet Elections
6 p.m.	Dinner
7:30 p.m.	"FFA Leaders—Unlocking Your Potential"
11 p.m.	Lights Out

Friday—Leading the Way in Communications

7:45 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Visit to Mount Vernon—Home of George Washington
11:00am	"Making A Difference in Your Chapter"
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:30 p.m.	"Making a Difference as a Leader"
6 p.m.	Dinner
7:30 p.m.	Leadership and Student Talent Revue
11 p.m.	Lights Out

Saturday—Leading the Way to the Future

8:15 a.m.	Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Sightseeing in Washington, D.C.—Smithsonian Institution, Air and Space Museum, Holocaust Museum, Ford's Theatre, Washington Monument, etc.
11:30 a.m.	Lunch at the Post Office Pavilion
12:30 p.m.	Sightseeing in Washington, D.C.
2:30-3:30 p.m.	Metro to Hotel
5:30 p.m.	Conference Banquet
10:45 p.m.	"Reflecting on the Week...Aiming for the Future"
11:30 p.m.	Lights Out

Advisor Program

Tuesday—Impact...Opportunity

1-5 p.m.	Conference Registration
5 p.m.	Photo Session with Students
5:30 p.m.	Dinner and Round Table Discussion
7:30 p.m.	"The Week's Opportunities" —Conference Welcome
8:30 p.m.	Reflections with Student Program

Wednesday—Impact...Premier Leadership

7:45 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	"Issues—Making a Difference" —Agriculture/Legislative Issues —Communicating with Legislators
10 a.m.	Visit to Arlington National Cemetery
Noon	Lunch at Union Station
1:45-4 p.m.	Congressional Visits Guided Sightseeing Tour—U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Botanical Gardens
4 p.m.	Photo at the Supreme Court Steps
6 p.m.	Dinner
6:45 p.m.	Local Program Success —Preparing Students for Life —Bringing Learning to Life
8 p.m.	Night Tour of Washington, D.C.—Jefferson, Lincoln and Iwo Jima Memorials; Vietnam Wall; White House

Thursday—Impact...Personal Growth

7:45 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Local Program Success —SAE: Building Connections —Professional Growth and Revitalization
11:15 a.m.	Spirit of Washington Riverboat Cruise
2 p.m.	Free Time—Georgetown and Old Town Alexandria
6 p.m.	Dinner
7 p.m.	Local Program Success —Marketing Your Program

Friday—Impact...Partnerships

7:45 a.m.	Breakfast
9 a.m.	Making Agricultural Partnerships —USDA Visit
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m.	Visit Mount Vernon—Home of George Washington
4 p.m.	Connecting with FFA and Ag Education Partners
6 p.m.	Dinner

Saturday—Impact...Visions

8:15 a.m.	Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Sightseeing in Washington, D.C.—Smithsonian Institution, Air and Space Museum, Holocaust Museum, Ford's Theatre, Washington Monument, etc.
11:30 a.m.	Lunch at the Post Office Pavilion
12:30 p.m.	Sightseeing in Washington, D.C.
3:30 p.m.	Metro to Hotel
5:30 p.m.	Conference Banquet

Schedule and workshop content subject to change. Saturday night's lodging provided with conference registration.

1998 CONFERENCE DATES

Seven, one-week premier leadership conferences are offered June through August. Just choose the week that fits your summer schedule. After your registration arrives at FFA, you will receive a confirmation card and additional information. Conferences can fill up fast! Guarantee your week by registering today. It's simple—just fax or mail the registration form on the next page. And pass the extra one along to a friend!

JUNE 9-14 • JUNE 16-21 • JUNE 23-28 • JULY 7-12
JULY 14-19 • JULY 21-26 • JULY 28-AUG. 2

STUDENT SUPERVISION AND CONFERENCE SIZE

WLC participants' care and safety is FFA's top priority. WLC staff reside in the same hotel with the members and accompany all participants during all workshops and tours throughout the week. The conference hotels also employ in-house, 24-hour security personnel. Most conference sessions have an average enrollment of 150 students, which allows for maximum student participation and personal contact by the five WLC staff members.

CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING REGISTRATION PACKAGES:

Registration Information	Prepaid Per Person	Late Fee*
Student Package (quad occupancy)	$450	$45
Includes hotel Tuesday through Sunday morning, meals, supplies, student 3-ring notebook, tours, in-town transportation and secondary accident insurance.		
Advisor Package (double occupancy)	$505	$45
Advisor Package (single occupancy)	$680	$45
Advisor/Guest Package	$855	$45

All advisor packages include lodging, meals, supplies, advisor/student notebook, tours, in-town transportation and secondary accident insurance. Guest package includes all meals and tours of Washington.
**Registration fees must be paid two weeks in advance to avoid the $45 late fee.*

MULTIPLE STUDENT DISCOUNT

Save money on advisor registration when you bring more students to WLC!

Number of WLC participants	Savings*
10-19	$125
20-29	$250
30-39	$375
40 or more	$505

**Savings for advisor expenses based on advisor rate, double occupancy.*

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Each week's conference begins with registration on Tuesday from 1-5 p.m. Hotel accommodations include Saturday night lodging. You will be assigned a room at one of two hotels. For chapters with four or more students attending, half the group may be registered at each hotel to ensure students receive the maximum benefits of a national experience, unless otherwise requested by the advisor. For the first time, a third conference site will be offered for all June conferences.

Rosslyn Westpark Hotel
1900 N. Fort Myer Drive
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 527-4814

Best Western Mount Vernon Inn
8751 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309
(703) 360-1300

Holiday Inn—Eisenhower Avenue
2460 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 960-3400

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1. Call Omega World Travel at (540) 786-8371, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time.
2. Tell the agent you are a WLC participant with the FFA. If you fly with American Airlines or USAIR, you will be eligible for a 5-10 percent savings.
3. Omega Travel will handle your travel arrangements or you may call USAIR directly. For USAIR, call 1-800-334-8644 and refer to GF11690483. Tell the agent you are an FFA WLC participant. For American Airlines, call Omega Travel for assistance.

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form for registration. Duplicate as needed for number of students attending. Mail or fax this completed form to the National FFA Organization, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. Fax: (703) 360-5524.

CONFERENCE DATES

Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices.

___ June 9-14 ___ July 14-19
___ June 16-21 ___ July 21-26
___ June 23-28 ___ July 28-Aug. 2
___ July 7-12

PACKAGE (CHECK ONE):	PREPAID*
❑ Student Package (quad occupancy)	$450
❑ Advisor Package (single occupancy)	$680
❑ Advisor Package (double occupancy)	$505
❑ Advisor/Guest Package	$855

**Registration fee must be paid at least two weeks in advance to avoid a $45 late fee.*

NAME:

CHAPTER NUMBER:

ADDRESS:

CITY: STATE: ZIP:

FFA CHAPTER:

ADVISOR NAME:

SCHOOL PHONE: HOME PHONE: SCHOOL FAX:

Is an advisor/chaperone attending with you? ❑ Yes ❑ No

ADVISOR/CHAPERONE NAME:

DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS?

CANCELLATION POLICY: There will be a $50 fee for cancellations received within 30 days of conference date. There will be a $225 cancellation fee for registered participants who do not attend.

For additional information, contact Donelle Johnson, or Kim Bailey, (703) 360-3600, ext. 252 or 309.

After June 1, please call (317) 802-6060.

PAYMENT METHOD: ❑ Visa ❑ Mastercard

ACCOUNT #:

EXPIRATION DATE:

CARDHOLDER'S NAME:

❑ **Check Enclosed**—
Payable to: National FFA Organization.

❑ **School Purchase Order**—fax or mail copy with registration form

Scholarship

❑ Scholarship Amount $_____
❑ National FFA Foundation, Inc.
❑ National FFA Alumni Association
❑ Other (specify)
❑ Multiple Student Discount Taken (see page 4)
❑ Male ❑ Female

For chapters with four or more students attending, half the group may be registered at each hotel to ensure students receive the maximum benefits of a national experience, unless otherwise requested by the advisor.

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STAFF

Hometown: Kintyre, North Dakota
FFA Office: State Vice President, 1996-97
Honors: American FFA Degree, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity
Organizations: NDSU Student Government, Sigma Alpha Agricultural Sorority
Education: North Dakota State University, majoring in agricultural economics

Beth Leier
Conference Leader

Hometown: Panguitch, Utah
FFA Office: State Treasurer, 1996-97
Honors: American FFA Degree, President's Youth Service Award
Organizations: 4-H, Block and Bridle Club
Education: Southern Utah University, majoring in elementary education

Tara Excell

Hometown: Sonoma, California
FFA Office: State Sentinel, 1996-97
Honors: Greenweek trip to Germany and Czech Republic
Organizations: Republican National Convention Color Guard
Education: California Polytechnic State University, majoring in agriculture business

Ryan Grenier

Hometown: Harcourt, Iowa
FFA Office: State Vice President, 1995-96
Honors: American FFA Degree, National FFA Scholarship Recipient
Organizations: Alpha Zeta Honorary Agricultural Fraternity, ISU Agricultural Business Club
Education: Iowa State University, majoring in agriculture business

Erik Heggen

Hometown: Winchester, Virginia
FFA Office: State Secretary, 1994-95
Honors: Miss Virginia Association of Fairs
Organizations: Block and Bridle, Agriculture Education Society
Education: Virginia Tech, majoring in agricultural economics

Melissa Purtlebaugh

STAFF

Tony Collins
Conference Leader

HOMETOWN: Gothenburg, Nebraska
FFA OFFICE: State Vice President, 1996-97
HONORS: State FFA Degree, State FFA Foundation Board
ORGANIZATIONS: Youth Community Improvement Program, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
EDUCATION: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in agronomy

Leslie Brown

HOMETOWN: Norton, Massachusetts
FFA OFFICE: State President, 1996-97
HONORS: American FFA Degree, Presidential Certificate of Merit
ORGANIZATIONS: 4-H member, American Agribusiness Summit Ambassador, S.A.D.D.
EDUCATION: Massasoit Community College

Mark Gardner

HOMETOWN: Madras, Oregon
FFA OFFICE: State President, 1996-97
HONORS: American FFA Degree, National Prepared Public Speaking Finalist
ORGANIZATIONS: Oregon State University Cultural Discovery Program, Student Volunteer Services
EDUCATION: Oregon State University, majoring in speech communication

Natalie Gray

HOMETOWN: Canann, Indiana
FFA OFFICE: State Vice President, 1996-97
HONORS: American FFA Degree, National FFA Scholarship Recipient
ORGANIZATIONS: Purdue Agricultural Council, Purdue Agronomy Club
EDUCATION: Purdue University, majoring in agriculture education

Megan McElroy

HOMETOWN: Snyder, Oklahoma
FFA OFFICE: State Vice President, 1996-97
HONORS: American FFA Degree, LeaderShape Institute
ORGANIZATIONS: Oklahoma State University Student Alumni Board, Freshman Representative Council
EDUCATION: Oklahoma State University, majoring in animal science

Kyle Kimble
Conference Leader

HOMETOWN: Pomeroy, Washington
FFA OFFICE: Srate Vice President, 1994-95
HONORS: American FFA Degree, Washington Vocational Excellence Recipient
ORGANIZATIONS: Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Agriculture Education Club
EDUCATION: Washington State University, majoring in agriculture education

Eric Schilling

HOMETOWN: Seward, Nebraska
FFA OFFICE: State Vice President, 1997-98
HONORS: State FFA Degree, Pork Producer Ambassador
ORGANIZATIONS: Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity, National 4-H Congress Leadership Team
EDUCATION: University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in animal science

Andrea Sokol

HOMETOWN: Peoria, Arizona
FFA OFFICE: State President, 1996-97
HONORS: American FFA Degree, Peoria High School Student of the Year
ORGANIZATIONS: Arizona Ag Day Volunteer, DARE role model
EDUCATION: University of Arizona, majoring in agriculture education

Abra Ungeheuer

HOMETOWN: Centerville, Kansas
FFA OFFICE: State Reporter, 1996-97
HONORS: State FFA Degree, KSU Ag Council Representative
ORGANIZATIONS: Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority, Ag Econ/Ag Business Club
EDUCATION: Kansas State University, majoring in agricultural economics

Tim Vandeham

HOMETOWN: Alcester, South Dakota
FFA OFFICE: District Secretary, 1995-96
HONORS: South Dakota Boys State Governor, Exremporaneous Speaking CDE State Winner
ORGANIZATIONS: Collegiate FFA, SDSU House and Hall Government
EDUCATION: South Dakota State University, majoring in agricultural engineering

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

YOU'VE DECIDED TO ATTEND THE WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER. BUT HOW DO YOU PAY FOR THE CONFERENCE AND TRANSPORTATION? NO PROBLEM. WITH THESE SIMPLE FUND-RAISING IDEAS, YOU'LL BE ROLLING IN MONEY IN NO TIME.

- Apply for a scholarship from FFA. Nearly 80 $350 National FFA Alumni Association scholarships are given to WLC participants every year. Applications are easy to complete. Talk with your advisor or state FFA alumni association for details.
- Ask for sponsorship from civic organizations like the Chamber of Commerce; service clubs such as Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions; and veterans' groups. When you return home, volunteer to give a motivational workshop with your new leadership skills.
- Approach local businesses, friends and local FFA supporters for funding. And don't forget to ask your parents for help.
- Sell, sell, sell. Citrus, candy, magazines, plants or craft sales can earn you quick cash. You could even hold a bingo or raffle event.
- Try providing a service. Wash cars, baby-sit for neighbors, or provide pet care. Any odd job can offer financial rewards.
- Be creative and start something new. Collect one million pennies, have a Polaroid picture sale or sponsor a Win, Lose or Draw tournament.
- Does your chapter provide a scholarship? Check with your FFA advisor.
- Develop your supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) to earn your way to WLC.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE ALSO GIVEN THROUGH THE NATIONAL FFA FOUNDATION, INC. CONTACT YOUR STATE FFA ADVISOR OR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR AN APPLICATION. FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDE:

Land O' Lakes, Inc. (Two $450 scholarships for each state)— Idaho • Iowa • Minnesota • Montana • Nebraska • North Dakota • Oregon • Pennsylvania • South Dakota • Washington • Wisconsin

The Dairy Association Company, Inc. (One scholarship of $450, pending)—Vermont

Idaho Wheat Commission (Two scholarships of $450 each)—Idaho

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The mission of agricultural education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resource systems.

Prepared and published by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the United States Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff, as an equal opportunity employer.

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WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Last Laff

Q. What has 18 legs and catches flies?
A. A baseball team.

Shay Williams
San Marcos, California

Q. What was the President's name in 1950?
A. It was Bill Clinton then too.

Jake Bornemann
Hannover, North Dakota

Q. What do hogs put in their computers?
A. Sloppy disks.

Matt Subler
Berne, Indiana

Q. Why are movies with chickens rated R?
A. Because of all the fowl language.

Sherry Mims
Bushnell, Florida

Q. Why did Beethoven throw away his chicken?
A. Because it would only say, "Bach, bach, bach."

Stacy Little
Byng, Oklahoma

Q. How does the man on the moon cut his hair?
A. Eclipse it.

Scott Lange
Tacna, Arizona

Q. What has more lives than a cat?
A. A frog—it croaks every night.

Matt Watt
Richardsville, Kentucky

Q. Why are people so tired on April 1?
A. Because they just finished a thirty-one day March.

Ann Leed
Myerstown, Pennsylvania

Q. What did Tennessee?
A. I don't know, but Alaska (I'll ask her).

Kerri Chapman
Ashford, Alabama

Q. Why did people like the Vegetable Band?
A. Because it had such a good beet.

Devin Doyle
Starks, Louisiana

Q. Why didn't the cheese want to go to school?
A. He didn't want to be graded.

Chris Strickland
Visalia, California

Q. What does water say to a boat?
A. Nothing. It just waves.

Amber Swenor
Birnam Wood, Wisconsin

FFA New Horizons **will pay $5.00 for each joke selected for Last Laff. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received.**

To submit a nomination for "FFA Stars," tell us why you think you or your nominee is an "FFA Star." You must also include the following: color photo, name, address, phone number, chapter and age of nominee, as well as your name and phone number (if different).

Jokes and nominations for "FFA Stars" must be addressed to:

FFA New Horizons
5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway P.O. Box 15160
Alexandria, VA 22309-0160

Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf

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